

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01882 041109Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347

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AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD OFFICIALLY OPENS:

APRIL 2 MARKS THE OFFICIAL START OF THE THREE-WEEK CAMPAIGN FOR THE APRIL 25 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL LAW, WHILE THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY EACH OF THE 12 PARTIES COMPETING IS TO RECEIVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE MEDIA; THE EXACT TIME ALLOTTED TO EACH PARTY ON RADIO AND TV WILL BE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES THEY ARE FIELDING. THE PRESS ALSO MUST NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY PARTY. THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL HAS HELD A DRAWING TO DETERMINE THE TIME SLOTS FOR THE VARIOUS PARTIES ON

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01882 041109Z

RADIO AND TV DURING THE CAMPAIGN. EXCEPT FOR THE QUESTION OF

MEDIA EXPOSURE, THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN OPENING DOES NOT HAVE MUCH REAL SIGNIFICANCE. PARTY PROPAGANDA WILL INCREASE, AND MORE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC RALLIES SHOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR CLOSE TO A YEAR.

2. AFM-POLITICAL PARTY CONVERSATIONS:

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE LEGALIZED POLITICAL PARTIES REGARDING A "PLATFORM OF AGREEMENT" ON THE MAIN LINES OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION START UP AGAIN ON APRIL 2. MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAVE BEEN MEETING DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTION.

PRIOR TO THE ABORTIVE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT, A DIALOGUE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE PARTIES ON THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE AFM IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. THOSE TALKS WERE SUSPENDED AFTER MARCH 11 WITH THE UNILATERAL AFM DECISION TO FORMALIZE ITS POLITICAL ROLE BY CREATING THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE CONSTITUTION BEFORE THE ELECTIONS THERE WILL BE LITTLE WORK FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO PERFORM.

3. PPD SUGGESTS CAMPAIGN PACT AMONG PARTIES:

THE PPD FORMALLY SUGGESTED APRIL 1 THAT THE FOUR COALITION PARTIES REACH CLEAR AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES REGARDING ESSENTIAL LINES OF FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL POLICY, AS WELL AS ON THE RULES OF THE GAME DURING THE CAMPAIGN. (COMMENT: THE PPD ESSENTIALLY SEEKS A TRUCE FOR THE THREE WEEKS OF THE CAMPAIGN, WITH THE PARTIES CONCENTRATING MORE ON DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS AND IDEOLOGY THAN ON THEIR INTER-PARTY DIFFERENCES. THE PPD HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET THE LEFT-WING PARTIES TO AGREE TO A RULES-OF-THE-GAME ACCORD FOR MONTHS IN THE FAINT HOPE OF KEEPING THE HEAT OFF THEMSELVES. PHYSICAL AND VERABLE LEFT-WING ATTACKS ON THE PPD ARE STEADY AND HEAVY, AND IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THE LEFT-WING WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SOCIALISTS-WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO A TRUCE OF THE TYPE THE PPD WANTS.)

4. MES ZEROS IN ON SOCIALISTS:

IN THE LAST 15 DAYS THE LEFT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MES), REFERRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01882 041109Z

TO AS COMMUNIST PARTY NUMBER 4 BY MARIO SOARES, HAS BEGUN A CONCENTRATED CAMPAIGN OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE BASIC MES CHARGE IS THAT THE SOCIALISTS ARE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES, ANTI-COMMUNIST, SUPPORT SPINOLISTAS, AND SEEK TO DIVIDE THE AFM BY ISOLATING AND DESTROYING ITS "TRULY PROGRESSIVE WING." THE SOCIALISTS ARE HELD MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT FOR NOT HAVING MORE VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED THE AFM, AND FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT BELIEVING IN THE

POSSIBILITIES OF A RIGHT WING RESURGENCE. THE SOCIALISTS DENY THE CHARGES AND ASSERT THAT THE MES AND ITS IDEOLOGICAL COLLEAGUES ARE ATTEMPTING TO SMEAR THEM AND ELIMINATE THE PARTY FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE. LIKE THE PPD AND CDS, THE SOCIALISTS ARE FAST BECOMING A PRINCIPAL TARGET OF COMMUNIST AND FAR-LEFT ATTACKS.

5. MDP/CDE PROGRAM PUBLISHED:

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MDP PUBLISHED ITS FULL PROGRAM APRIL 2. MDP PROGRAM IS VERY VAGUE. IT DEFENDS POLICY OF PEACE, ANTI-IMPERIALISM, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, ANTI-MONOPOLISM, AND A DIRECT ROLE FOR THE "PEOPLE" IN DECISION MAKING. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, PROGRAM CALLS FOR "RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS BUT THE PROGRESSIVE ASSERTION OF NEUTRALITY OPPOSED TO THE EXISTENCE OF MILITARY BLOCS." DETAILS OF MDP PROGRAM WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM. BECAUSE OF IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ROLE MDP PLAYS IN CABINET, ECONOMIC PART OF PROGRAM IS SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

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